CAS Faculty Council Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2015
3:30 p.m., Arts & Sciences, Room 122


Not in attendance: Susan Blood, Alyssa Morey, Yiming Ying.

Absent with Cause: Alexander Buyantuev, Kristen Corbosiero, Caro-Beth Stewart, Oscar Williams.

1. Call to Order
Chair Tchernev called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes from October 14, 2015
Councilors reviewed the minutes and offered corrections to the attendance list. The corrected meeting minutes for October 14, 2015 were approved with two abstentions.

3. Chair’s Report
Chair Tchernev had nothing to report.

4. Senate Report
Vice Chair Chen shared with the Council what she heard from the Provost including that SUNY is making $100 million in one-time funds available for distribution System-wide. Eleven proposals requesting $24 million were submitted and an award decision is expected in December. SUNY will conduct a review of the 20-20 initiative. The Contingent Faculty Committee report is scheduled to be out soon. And the Graduate Stipend Committee report including possible adjustments to the stipends is expected to be released before the end of the semester. The Senate Chair relayed the request from UUP that an Ombudsperson be added to the Tenure and Promotion Committee. The deactivation of the Puerto Rican Studies Major was voted on and passed.

Vice Chair Chen also reported that a professor from the Economics Department invited discussion on the fact that the Discretionary Salary Increases were no longer additions to base pay, which makes retention of faculty members in competitive disciplines quite difficult. UUP responded that everyone interested in this issue should contact the president of the local chapter and the vice-president at the state level. It seems that the only route to obtaining a substantial raise is through getting an outside offer and letting the university know about it. The Perkins
Loan was allowed to “sunset” and the EOP director is organizing a student and faculty rally against it.

Vice Chair Chen was asked about the Perkins Loan and she offered clarification about the nature of those loans (i.e. low cost loans) and their expiration (i.e. allowed to sunset).

5. **Dean’s Report**

Dean Wulfert explained that a new “Institute for History and Public Engagement” will be hosted in the History Department. The Institute will be interdisciplinary in nature and is expected to invite participation from other departments on campus.

Dean Wulfert reported that she reviewed the Council’s FRAP recommendations and forwarded them to the Vice President for Research. Dean Wulfert does not expect to have all twenty proposals funded, but she noted that some of those not funded may be suitable for a FRAP B application.

Dean Wulfert mentioned that the annual college dinner was very well attended (>120). Professor Thorncroft’s presentation about the effects of climate change in general and in New York State in particular was very well received.

Dean Wulfert commented on the adverse impact of Discretionary Salary Increases no longer being added to base pay. She encouraged faculty to appeal this decision and ask that their Union negotiate better contracts; other advocacy strategies include emailing the Governor and lobbying for better contracts.

**Committee Reports**

5.1 **Nomination Committee**

Chair Chen announced that Anupam Srivastav has accepted to become the Chair of the Academic Program Committee from Spring 2016 onwards. Since Anupam Srivastav is not technically a Council member yet, he had to be nominated first.

5.2 **Tenure and Promotion Committee**

Chair Powers reported that the Tenure and Promotion committee has thirteen cases scheduled for review this academic year: seven tenure cases, and six cases for promotion to full professor.

5.3 **Faculty Development Committee**

Faculty Development Committee member Ryan Irwin reported that the Faculty Development Committee met on October 19 and 22 to evaluate 20 FRAP proposals.

5.4 **Academic Planning Committee**

The Academic Planning Committee had nothing to report.

5.5 **Academic Programs**
Helen Elam volunteered to chair the Academic Programs Committee. The sub-committee for student grievances has met and discussed two grievances. The votes were unanimous and they confirmed recommendations from prior reviews. As one successful grade grievance pertained to the fact that a faculty member did not keep track of grades for individual quizzes and thus could not disprove the student’s claim, a Council member commented on the importance of utilizing BlackBoard’s gradebook functionality to keep track of students’ grades. Multiple forms and grade policies are available online on the CAS website.

5.6 Academic Support

Nothing to report.

6. Old Business

No old business.

7. New Business

Anupam Srivastav was unanimously elected to become the Chair of the Academic Program Committee Spring 2016 onwards.

8. Adjournment

Councilors were reminded that the next CAS meeting is a full faculty meeting on December 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 2015, 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the Campus Center. The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Carlos Balsas.